ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES.

OF THE

ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSIONS

OF THE

SHELBY ASSOCIATION

OF

BAPTIST CHURCHES.

HELD WITH DOGWOOD OCT. 1862 *AND LIBERTY, OCT.* 1863.

SELMA:
WORKS & CASWELL, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1863.

MINUTES.

The delegates to Shelby Association of Baptist Churches met at the Dogwood Grove church on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in October, 1852. Introductory Sermon preached by Elder R. Wood, from Ephesians 6: 18, 19; when the delegates assembled in the Church, and was called to order by the former Moderator, and Association opened by prayer by Elder N. Haggart. Letters from the churches were then called for and read, and the names of delegates enrolled. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk. Elder T. P. Holcombe elected Moderator and Elder N. J. Norris Clerk. A committee was then appointed to arrange preaching during the session, consisting of one from each district, to-wit: 1st district N. Deloach; 2d district, Aaron Stone; 3d district, Jas. Duyck, with the deacons of this church. Letters of correspondents were called for, when Elder J. A. Collins and J J D Renfrow, from the Coosa River Association came forward and were received. From the Canaaan Association. Elder Wm T Rodgers, A J Waldrop, and James Grimes came forward and were received. The following committees were then appointed: *On Documents*—Brethren Cardin, Haggard, S King, Gilbert and Brasher; *To arrange business for the Association*—Brethren R Wood, Figh and Wm Armstrong, with Moderator and Clerk.

The committee on Preaching report Elder Gilbert to preach tonight followed by Elder Brasher. After singing and prayer by Elder Renfrow, adjourned to 9 o'clock Mondpy morning.

On Sabbah, by request, Elder J A Collins preached the Missionary Sermon; after which a collection was taken up money and pledges of $123 for Domestic Missions. In the afternoon Elder Renfrow preached to a large and attentive congregation

May the great Head of the Church bless the labors of this day.

Monday morning at 9 o'clock the Association met pursuant to adjournment Opened by prayer by the Moderator, and proceeded to business, Called the roll and marked absentees; correspondence

again called for, when a letter from Mulberry Association was presented by her messengers, brothers J J Risenger and J M Wells, which was read at the same time. One other letter was presented from the Canaan Association, by her other messenger, Wm C McLauchlin, was received and welcomed by the Moderator. The report of the committee on Business was called for, which was received and adopted and the committee discharged. Appointed the following brethren a committee on Finance; R R Rushing, Daniel L Brown. The Abstract of Principles wat then read. To returned correspondents, the following brethren volunteered to go: to the Canaan Association R Wood, Con. Smith, D T [redacted] ; Mulberry Association, Mullin, Maroney and N Haggard; Coosa River Association, N J Norris, Cardin, Levi Perry and Richard Woods.

Called for report on Documents, which was received, read and adopted and committee discharged.

The following preamble and resolutions were then offered,

Whereas, This Association, at its last session, learned from Brother D T Seal that he holds the doctrine of Apostacy, and that baptism is not essential to the salvation of a believer in Jesus Christ, and the body believing him to be in error in those views, roquested him to re-examine and investigate the subject, and called the attention of the Limevillechurch, of which the said Seal is a member and Pastor, to the fact; and request said church to take such steps in the premises as they in their wisdom might think necessary and proper; and whereas, the said church, in their letters this year, informed us that they have heard the said Seal on those points, and do not find him in error, but appears that they believe with him in doctrine, therefore,

Resolved, That this Association cannot longer hold in fellowship Limeville church, and we do hereby withdraw from her, nor can we in future act in concert with any church or churches that may encourage this doctrine or countenance the ministrations of D T Seal while he holds in his present error.

Appointed the following brethren, to preach the next Introductory Sermon, Elder Rufus Figh, alternate N J Norrs; the Missionary Sermon, Elder R. Wood, alternate Mullins. Adjourned till 2 o'clock this evening.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Called for circular letter; brother Carden offered excuse for not writing the letters, which was accepted. The next session of this Asseciation is to be held with Liberty Church, 10 miles North of Columbiana. Appointed the following brethren a committee on Domestic Missions: Aaron Stone, R R Rushing, A A Sterrett, E. W Attaway, Edward King. Query from Limeville church: Has a Baptist church any right to open a letter or letters of dismission to a member in good standing and order, when a church is all in fellowship and peace? Answering this query according to its import, we say no; it is our opinion that a Baptist church has not the right to refuse a member letter who is in fellowship with the church and the church with him; but if it is known to the church that the applicant intends carrying his membership to a heterodox church, or holds the same. This of itself shows that

he has lost fellowship with his church, and has himself imbibed erroneous doctrine, and as such his church certainly has the right to reject his application and call him to account for his views.

On motion, the business of the association was suspended for half an hour, to engage in prayer to Almighty God in behalf of the Army of the Confederate States of America; and in behalf of those venerable brethren in the ministry, who have been imprisoned in Tennessee, for praying to our Father in Heaven in behalf of our bleeding country. After which the association adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, Tuesday morning.

Tuesday morning 9 y'clock, the association met pusuant to adjournment. opened by prayer, by Bro. Carden. Called for report on Finance; which was received and adopted; and committee discharged. On motion the clerk be allowed $ 20 for his services.

On motion, ordered 600 copies of minutes be printed.

On motion, the minutes be distributed according to contribution. On motion, 75 copies be reserved for correspondence.

Called for report on missions which was received, and adopted, and discharged [*See Report*]

On motion, the excess of funds in the hands of the Treasurer of the Missionry Board, be paid over to Bretheren Gilbert, and Jones, according to their services.

On motion, one distributing agent be appointed for each district; for the first, Edward King; 2nd district N. J. Norris. 3rd district, Cardin. On motion, resolved that this association tender their thanks to the members of Dogwood Grove Church, and vicinity, for their kindness and hospitality during the sitting of this body.

On motion Resolved, That the Missionary be paid $1 25 per day.

On motion, the churches be requested to use the following form of a Letter:

We, the Regular Missionary Baptist Chtrch of Chrise at do hereby certify that the bearer is a member in full fellowship with us, and is hereby dismissed from us, when joined to another church of the same faith and order.

On motion adjourned. T. P. HOLCOMBE, *Moderator.*

N. J. NORRIS, *Clerk.*

Delegates from the Churches of the "Shelby Association of Baptist Churches" met with Liberty Church on Saturday. the 10th day of October, 1863. Introductory sermon preached by Elder Rufus Figh, from Isaiah 8, 53; after which the delegates met at the School House near by, and were called to order by the former Moderator,

when letters from the churches were called for and read, the following Delegates present, viz:

Bethesda—J. D. Teague, N. J. Norris. James Miner.

Liberty—T. P. Holcombe, J. R. Gilbert, A. Adams, E. A. Horton

Columbiana—R. A. Moseley, jr., A. A. Sterrett.

Pleasant Grove—J. L. Brasher. *Asa Wyatt*, Larken Vandivere.

Dogwood Grove—*Hiram Holsawback*, James Holsawback.

Cahawba—*H. F. Fleming.*

Montevallo—Rufus Figh.

Cahawba Valley—O. J. Bell, John Baily.

Friendship—S. Con, E. W. Attaway.

Mt. Calvary—*W. W. Armstrong*, John Davis, Aaron Stone.

Pleasant Hill—W. K. Rushing.

Beaver Creek—Weatley Armstrong, R. R. Rushing.

Concord—G. W. Weldon, admitted without letter.

Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk; Elder T. P. Holcomb elected Moderator, and A. A. Sterrett, Clerk.

The Constitution of the Association, Rules of Decorum and Abstract of Principles read, when a letter was received from Harmony church, dismissed from the Canaan Association, asking admission into this Association; granted by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to the delegate presenting the letter, Ezekiel Isbell, and said church added to the 3d district.

Called for correspondence, letter and minutes received from Canaan Association by her messenger, A McDonald. Bro. Holman also received as messenger from the Cahawba association, and as agent of the Domestic Mission Board at Marion.

Brethren Baily, R. R. Rushing and Vandivere, with the deacons of Liberty church, appointed a committee to arrange preaching during the session.

In the absence of brethren Wood and Mullins, brother Holman was requested by this Association to preach the Missionary Sermon at the usual hour on Sunday.

Appointed brethren Mosely and Attaway a committee on Finance; on Documents, brethren Teague, Norris, W. W. Armstrong, Figh and Gilbert.

Returned correspondence to the Canaan Association. brethren Brasher, Fleming and Gilbert. messengers; to the Coosa River Association, brethren Norris and Teague; to the Cahawba Association, brethren Baily, Wood, Haggard and Figh.

Committee on Preaching, selected brethren McDonald to preach to-night, brother Figh on Sunday evening after the Missionary Sermon, brother Teague to follow; bro. Brasher to preach at night,

bro. Holsomback to follow.

The Missionary committee heretofore appointed, continued ; bro. Baily appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of bro. E. King, and bro. Sterrett appointed Treasurer of the association, with authority to receive funds in hands of bro. E. King, as well as from other sources, contributed for Missionary labor in the bounds of this association.

Agreed to devote one hour each morning during the sitting of this body, in special prayer to God, for his blessing upon us, as a people engaged in a struggle for liberty: then engaged in prayer; after which adjourned to 9 o'clock, A. M., Monday.

On Sunday services were conducted by the brethren selected, in the order named by committee, to attentive congregations ; after Missionary sermon, a collection was taken up, and which was agreed to be applied to Army missions, of $271 55, which was paid over to bro. Holman for that purpose.

Monday met, and after engaging in singing and prayer as agreed, Association called to order and roll called, when bro. Jas. Duyck was received as delegate from Beulah church without letter.

Appointed the next session to be held with Beaver Creek church, Saturday before 2d Sunday in October, 1864 ; brother J. D. Teague to preach the introductory sermon, J. P. Fulmer, alternate; brother Figh to preach the Missionary sermon, bro. Holcombe alternate.

Ordered that 900 copies of these minutes, as well as of the minutes of last session, be printed, that the Clerk see to the same and reserve 100 copies for correspondence, and that he be allowed $20 for his services.

The committee on Finance reported sent up by the churches for minutes $51 50 ; for associational purposes $22 75, and for missionary purposess $20 50, which were paid over to the clerk and treasurer.

Appointed brethren Attaway, Brasher and Duyck a committee on Temperance.

It is respectfully, but earnestly requested of Pastors of churches in our bounds to urge upon heads of families and members of our churches the duty of daily family worship.

The committee on Documents made the following report:

That they have had the same under consideration, and recommend to the favor of this body the various benevolent operations of our sister Associations. They further recommend the patronage of the South-western Baptist, published at Tuskegee, Ala., the Christian Index and the Child's Index published at Macon, Ga., and especially would they urge the importance of circulating religious literature among our soldiers in the Army ; but above all, they earnestly recommend a prayerful and systematic study of the Scriptures, which are able to make men wise unto salvation.

J. D. TEAGUE, Ch'm'n.

Which was adopted ; the committeee on Temperance submitted

the following report:

It is with profoud sorrow that your committee have unmistakable evidence that intemperance is on the increase; that a number of Baptists are engaged in the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, thus bringing reproach upon the cause of Christ and a stain upon their own characters, Christians are represented as the salt of the earth, the light of the world. They are required to come out from the world, to be separate from sinners—to touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing; not only to abstain from all wrong, but to avoid all appearance of evil. They cannot sustain this character, and fulfil these requirements, while running a distillery, visiting dram shops or habitually using ardent spirits. Your committee are deeply impressed with the fact that such conduct is wholly inconsistent with Christian character, and in violation of Bible teaching; and they recommend the churches of this Association to prohibit the manufacture, traffic and use of as a beverage, all intoxicating drinks, br their members. All which is respectfully submitted.

E. W. ATTAWAY,
J. L. BRASHER,
J S. DUYCK.

Which was unanimously adopted.

Bro. Moseley offered the following resolution, which was likewise adoped, viz:

Resolved by ehe Shelby Association, That we believe in the justness of the cause for which our brave soldiers are fighting, ahd earnestly invite our brethren to pray unceasingly for our cause, independence and final separation from the Universal Yankee Nation.

The Missionary committee directed to allow $2 50 per day, for Missionary labor instead of $I 25 as heretofore.

On motion of bro. Rushing,

Resolved, That this Association tender their most hearty thanks to this vicinity for their generous hospitality,

After singing and prayer adjourned., T. P. HOLCOMBE,
A. A, Sterrett, Clerk. Moderator.

TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS:

Receive this our Letter, with minutes of proceedings, by our messenger, whom we have appointed to visit you, with Christian regard, and expressions of our desire to continue correspondence with you. Our minutes of proceedings will advise you what we are doing. May the Lord make us more humble and useful, and bless you in all your efforts to do good, Meet with us at our next session, to be held at Beaver Creek Church, about three miles South-west from Columbiana, on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in October, 1864. T. P. HOLCOMBE, *Moderator*

TABLE SHOWING THE AMOUNT SENT UP BY THE CHURCHES for Minutes, Associational Purposes, Missions and Sabbath Schools in 1862 and 1863, and the Number of Membership at the Session of 1863 of Churches Represented.

CHURCHES	MINUTES		ASSOCIATIONAL		MISSIONS		SUNDAY SCHOOLS		MEMBERSHIP
	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	1862.	1863.	No.
Enon	1 50	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Six Mile	2 50	2 50	.....	2 50	2 50	.....	.....	.....	35
Cahawba Valley	1 50	5 00	1 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67
Montevallo	1 50	7 00	1 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61
Providence	1 50	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	10 00	.....	.....
Dogwood Grove	3 00	2 50	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	129
Union	1 25	.....	1 00	.....	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cahawba	1 75	2 00	45	2 00	1 80	.....	.....	.....	18
Mount Zion	2 00	.....	1 75	.....	6 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Hill	1 50	3 50	1 50	2 50	12 30	7 50	.....	.....	78
Beaver Creek	1 50	4 06	1 50	2 00	10 00	12 00	.....	.....	51
Columbiana	2 00	2 50	1 25	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Mount Calvary	1 50	4 00	1 50	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	63
Limeville	1 00	.....	50	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bethesda	1 50	3 00	1 00	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	39
Beulah	1 00	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Grove	50	2 50	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Concord	50	1 00	50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mount Pleasant	95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mount Pisgah	1 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Friendship	1 00	3 00	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Liberty	2 50	7 00	2 50	3 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	102
Cook's Springs	1 00	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harmony	.....	1 00	.....	75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	$34 45	$51 50	$20 95	$23 75	$36 60	$19 50	$10 00	.....	.....

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